1. **X 著 V 著, (X) (就) VP**
   “X was V-ing and V-ing when, X VP-ed”
   quite by accident,
   without thinking,
   before X knew it

->a. 他們走著走著來到了中山路。
They had been walking and walking when, before they knew it, they had reached Zhongshan Road.

b. 我們出去逛街, 逛著逛著來到了一家韓國飯館。

c. 我在郵電局寫了幾張明信片, 寫著寫著, 一看表都快五點了！

d. He was on the phone calling long distance and talked on and on; before he knew it, he was out of money.

e. 他在書店裏翻書, 翻著翻著, 睡著了。

f. The last Chinese test was very difficult. There I was taking it, and before I knew it, class was over.

2. **X 趁(的時候)/VP**
   “X takes advantage of (the time when) S to VP”

->a. 趁你打電話的時候, 我寫了三張明信片, ... 
I took advantage of the time while you were making the phone call to get three postcards written.

b. 你別老趁我不在的時候請好多朋友來玩兒。

c. 我打算趁爸、媽出去散步的時候給男朋友打個長途電話。

d. Santa 每年趁孩子睡覺的時候把東西送來。

e. 你最好趁他心情好的時候跟他借錢。

f. We should take advantage of the time when we’re young to travel overseas more.

g. 我得趁他閒著沒事的時候再提修烘乾機的事, 要不然他老找藉口說沒時間修。

h. He seems to always take advantage of the time when I’m not hungry to invite me out to eat.

i. 你放心, 我會趁他沒時間的時候才請他來看我們！

j. We had better take advantage of the time when the weather is not yet cold to get the furnace fixed.
3. [TIME WHEN] 輪到你/我/他

转动得到
转动不到

“[TIME WHEN] it is/was/will be your/my/his turn”

->a. 等了半天才轮到我。
I waited half the day before it was my turn.

b. 什麼時候輪得到我呢？
c. 恐怕今年輪不到我們。
d. 早晚得輪到我們。
e. 下次我們出去吃飯就輪到你請客了。
f. 今年感恩節輪到我給全家做飯。

4. 在(去/來) DESTINATION的路上

在路 on the way to/from DESTINATION
在路上 VP “VP on the road/way”

->a. 咱們還應該買些郵簡，在去西安的路上，我可以寫幾張寄給我的大學同學
和斯蒂夫。
   We should buy a few aerogrammes; on the way to Xi’an, I can write a few to
   college classmates and to Steve.

b. 小張在去西岸的路上還特地來看我。
c. 我打算在去香港的路上把明信片都寫完。
d. 你能不能在回紐約的路上順便到芝加哥來看我？
e. 在回公司的路上我跟老板鬧翻了。
f. I’d have never thought that, on the way back to the company, the boss would ask
   me whether I have a boyfriend!

5. 特地 VP

“specially do VP”
“purposefully do VP”

->a. 為了他，我們特地去了香港，沒想到他卻跑到臺北去了。
   We made a special trip to Hong Kong for him, never expecting he’d have trotted off
   to Taipei!

b. They made a special trip to New York for me.
c. After he got to Hong Kong, he purposefully phoned me long distance to put my
   mind at ease.
d. Last time he went to Taiwan on business, he purposefully bought many Taiwanese
   specialties.
6. 為了 NP/VP
   “For the sake of NP”
   “For the sake of VP-ing”
   “in order to VP”

->a. 為了他，我們特地去了香港，沒想到他卻跑到台北去了。
    We made a special trip to Hong Kong for him, never expecting he’d have trotted off to Taipei!

b. 為了他，我什麼都願意做。
c. 為了買郵簡，我還特地跑了一趟郵電局。
d. 為了給孩子買糖果、餅乾什麼的，他特地去了一趟購物中心。
e. In order to mail a registered package, I made a special trip to the Post and Telecommunications Office.
f. 為了讓他們放心，我在路上給爸、媽寄了很多郵簡。

7. X 沒想到 S
   “X never thought/expected S”

->a. 為了他，我們特地去了香港，沒想到他卻跑到台北去了。
    We made a special trip to Hong Kong for him, never expecting he’d have trotted off to Taipei!

b. I made a special trip to see him, never expecting [he was away on business]
c. It was by registered airmail that I sent it; I never expected it would get lost!
d. I never expected sending a telegram would be such a pain!
f. He never expected that, if you want to make a phone call, you have to wait in line.

8. X 一下子 VP
   “VP in one fell swoop”
   “VP all at once”
   “VP in a flash”

->a. 今天真的來對了，一下子辦了這麼多事。
    Coming today was really a good thing; we got so much done in one fell swoop.

b. 他一下子把詳細情況都說出來了。
c. 你別一下子把糖果都吃了。
d. 他不小心一下子把窗戶拍破了。
e. As soon as these name-brand (pieces of) furniture went on sale, they were sold out in a flash.
9. 萬一 (X) VP
“In the unlikely event that (X) VP”
“Just in case X VP”

->a. 萬一丟了怎麼辦？
What if it gets lost, then what?

b. Just in case he runs out of time to phone, what’ll we do?
c. What if there aren’t enough stamps on the parcel what’ll we do?
d. What if they’ve broken up, what should I say?
f. What if the airline loses my luggage, what’ll I do?

10. X 一向 VP
“X has always VP-ed/been VP”

->a. 航空掛號一向安全可靠，不會有什麼問題的。
Registered air mail has always been safe and reliable; there won’t be any problem.

b. I never have liked to wait in line.
c. He’s always been an impatient type.
d. He’s always had a very open personality.
e. Eastern Airlines has always been very reliable.

Usage note:
一向 vs 一直

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>一向</th>
<th>一直</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X has always VPed.</td>
<td>From/for TIME/DURATION, X has always VP-ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*我從小一向不喜歡看卡通片。</td>
<td>我從小一直不喜歡看卡通片。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>? Ever since I was small, I never did like to watch cartoons.</td>
<td>I haven’t liked to watch cartoons since I was small.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>我一向不喜歡看卡通片。</td>
<td>我一直不喜歡看卡通片。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I never did like to watch cartoons.</td>
<td>All along, I haven’t liked to watch cartoons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>他跟朋友一向相處得很好。</td>
<td>他們認識三年了，一直相處得很好。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He has always got along well with friends.</td>
<td>They’ve known each other for three years and have always gotten along well.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
->a. 為了他，我們特地去香港，沒想到他卻跑到臺北去了。
We made a special trip to Hong Kong for him, never expecting he’d have trotted off to Taipei!

CAUTION:  Unlike 可是 and 不過, the expression 卻 is always preverbal and is very literary/formal.

b. 我問郵電局的人在哪兒拍電報，他卻不知道。
c. 我到郵局去寄掛號信，卻找不到郵箱。
d. 我打半天電話卻打不通。
e. My brother made a special trip here to see me; however, I wasn’t here!